



ASSOCIATION OF ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH CENTERS

<http://www.ecosystemresearch.org>

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008**

**President**

Thomas Jordan  
Smithsonian Environmental Research  
Center  
P.O. Box 28  
Edgewater, MD 21037  
(443) 482-2209  
jordanth@si.edu

**President-Elect**

Lucinda Johnson  
Center for Water and the Environment  
Natural Resources Research Institute  
University of Minnesota  
5013 Miller Trunk Hwy.  
Duluth, MN 55811-1442  
(218) 720-4251  
ljohnson@nrri.umn.edu

**Secretary**

Robin Graham  
Environmental Sciences Division  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
PO Box 2008  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6036  
(865) 576-7756  
grahamrl@ornl.gov

**Treasurer**

Amelia K. Ward  
Center for Freshwater Studies  
Box 870206  
University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0206  
(205) 348-1796  
award@biology.as.ua.edu

**Members at Large**

Michael Auerbach  
DEES  
Desert Research Institute  
2215 Raggio Parkway  
Reno, NV 89512  
(775) 673-7409  
Mike.Auerbach@dri.edu

John C. Moore  
Director, Natural Resource Ecology  
Laboratory  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523  
(970) 491-1796  
jcmoore@nrel.colostate.edu

David E. Smith  
Dept. of Environmental Sciences  
University of Virginia, Clark Hall  
291 McCormick Road  
PO Box 400123  
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4123  
(434) 924-0561  
des3e@virginia.edu

**Past President**

Knute Nadelhoffer  
University of Michigan  
Biological Station  
Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biol.  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1048  
(734) 763-4461  
knute@umich.edu

February 13, 2008

Dear Colleagues,

This year's annual meetings of the Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC) will be part three of our global change trilogy. The 2006 meetings examined ecological tipping points, thresholds of rapid irreversible transformation being approached by ecosystems altered by global climate change. Such tipping points were illustrated by recent changes in arctic tundra vegetation, increases in freshwater inputs to arctic seas, increasing frequency of coral-reef bleaching, and widespread desertification of arid lands (see the updated AERC website at [www.ecosystemresearch.org](http://www.ecosystemresearch.org)). The 2007 meetings considered the sustainability of bioenergy feedstocks, including woody crops, food crop residues, soy for biodiesel, and corn grain or grasses and for ethanol (see the February 2008 AERC Newsletter). **The 2008 meetings, scheduled for September 25-26 in Washington DC, will focus on potential carbon sequestration by ecosystems**, comparing major ecosystem types ranging from forests to marine ecosystems.

As with the previous meetings, the 2008 meetings will combine briefings for congressional staff and federal agency officials with a more in-depth symposium for interested agency staff as well as for AERC representatives and guests. A luncheon and reception will provide refreshments and opportunities for informal communication. We will coordinate our annual AERC council meeting with the briefing and symposium. I will send you details about these meetings as our planning continues.

These meetings further AERC's mission to promote the use of ecosystem science to address environmental problems. AERC advocates support for ecosystem-scale research, provides information for scientists and policy makers, promotes training opportunities in ecosystem studies, and fosters collaboration among member institutions.

AERC continues to work closely with the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). The AERC President is an ex officio member of the AIBS Public Policy Review Committee. AIBS distributes a Public Policy Report by email every two weeks. We recommend that you subscribe to these free reports by going to [www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org).

The need for ecosystems research has never been higher. Judging from the response to our last two meetings, policy makers' interest in ecosystems science is increasing. We must work together to ensure that sound science informs policies on resource management, energy, and climate change. I hope you will join us at the annual AERC meetings this September.

Best wishes,

Thomas E. Jordan  
AERC President 2008